

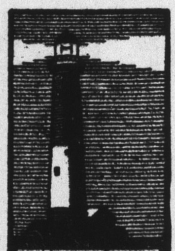
The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1941

PLEASE BE CAREFUL

MORE than 60,000 children in Indianapolis went back to school today. They have to cross innumerable corners dependent upon the sanity and care of thousands of us who drive automobiles.

Let's be careful if only for their sake.

RISKS

"IF we are to be completely honest with ourselves, we must admit there is risk in any course we may take."—President Roosevelt.

These are true words.

Let us look at some of the risks.

If we don't supply Britain with the armament and food she needs, she might be conquered, and her navy surrendered. Then we would have to defend two oceans with our one-ocean navy. That is a risk we do not want to take. So we shall sacrifice every other effort to producing arms, and supplying Britain with what she needs.

In supplying Britain, we risk incurring the enmity of Germany, Italy and Japan. That is a risk we shall take. We have their enmity already, and we can cope with it better if Britain, with our help, can survive.

If we put no limits on our help to Britain, if we let one step lead to another, without caution or restraint, we run the risk of getting into the war, first with our Navy, then with our Army. And then we might find ourselves engaged in a years-long struggle with the continent of Europe, a struggle that might go on and on until we became an exhausted prey to civilization-destroying forces such as overwhelmed Russia, Italy and Germany after the other war.

That is a risk we must not take.

The only way to break the cycle of wars that breed revolutions and revolutions that breed new wars is to break it—break it by the decision of one great nation to make herself so strong that she can stay out of war.

ENEMIES ON OUR SHIPS

SEAMEN of the American Merchant Marine have had legitimate grievances and real need of strong organization to better their conditions. That need provided opportunity for the C. I. O. National Maritime Union.

But here, as in other fields, Communist trouble-makers also saw a great opportunity. They have undertaken to dominate the Seamen's Union and other C. I. O. unions of longshoremen and radio operators. Evidence of their activity has been plentiful. Their efforts to undermine discipline at sea and to spread subversion provided reason for grave concern, even in calmer times.

In these times, when the Merchant Marine is a vital auxiliary of national defense, such activity is intolerably dangerous. For the Communists are not serving the real interests of labor. Their prime purpose is to wreck the defense program. Realization of that fact undoubtedly is behind the Washington reports that the Navy has plans to take over the entire Merchant Marine in time of emergency or war, replacing civilian seamen and radio operators with blue-jackets.

So we're glad that members of Congress are taking interest in this situation, seeking information about the extent of Communist control in the maritime unions and demanding an end to such control. Rep. Dirksen of Illinois goes so far as to propose a law to bring all merchant ship crews into the active naval reserve "during the defense emergency."

We're not so sure of the wisdom of that proposal. Four years ago the Navy undertook to enroll 30,000 seamen in the Merchant Marine Naval Reserve. Actually, it has enrolled only 339. The Dirksen plan, it seems to us, might bring into the reserve a great group of men who don't want to be there, including many Communists and sympathizers whose opportunities for doing harm might be increased.

We believe that the great majority of the 65,000 seamen on American merchant ships are loyal to the country, that they are unwilling victims of a perniciously active Communist minority and that it would be a genuine service to them—as well as to the country—to drive the Communists out of places of influence in their union. As a logical first step, we applaud the request of the U. S. Maritime Commission by Rep. Keefe of Wisconsin for a full and frank report on Communistic activity on ships under its jurisdiction.

Such a report might well impel the C. I. O. high command, under the new leadership of Philip Murray, to help loyal rank-and-file members of the maritime unions in overthrowing Communist control. That would preserve the unions for their real and essential purpose. If the unions do not clean house, sterner measures may become inevitable, for the American people, in our opinion, will demand that the personnel of the Merchant Marine—to which President Roosevelt has just proposed to add 200 new vessels at a cost of \$300,000,000—be freed of the influence of enemies and saboteurs.

BOYS AND MEN FIRST

IN the movies, as in some other enterprises, they pay off in the box office.

The customers say Mickey Rooney is tops in his business with Spencer Tracy second, Clark Gable third and Gene Autry fourth. Among the women, Bette Davis ranked highest, but there were eight men who drew more cash through the ticket window.

We don't know what this proves, unless it proves that the movies are attended by more wives, sisters and daughters than by husbands, brothers and sons. Men must work while women must weep or emoté otherwise.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Congressional Inquiry as Urged
By Smith Committee Would Be Sure
To Revise Opinions on Some Unions

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—The most important recommendation of the Smith committee of the House of Representatives which investigated the Labor Board and the Wagner Act was the one which proposed a Congressional study of the whole question of labor relations. Of course, events may rush upon us in a storm and prevent orderly consideration, but I am assuming, for the moment, that it will be possible to poke along in a deliberate and sure-footed way. If that is done Congress is sure to cure its mind of a great many superstitions concerning the structure and practice of unions.

It would be just as well to admit that the Wagner Act, as originally passed, was an emotional item of legislation which revealed great ignorance of the subject of unions. Surely Congress would not have passed this law had the fact been known that professional criminals were operating some of the important unions of the American Federation of Labor and were represented in its executive council, and that this big parent organization disclaimed both the power and the duty to clean house. Congress would not have taken the responsibility for driving hundreds of thousands of workers into unions against their will.

It is impossible to believe that, even in those emotional days, Congress knowingly would have become a party to a deal by which unions were given the power to intimidate workers in public elections, and even to shake down workers and employers as well for political party funds.

These are some of the discoveries that have been made since the Wagner Act was passed. It was supposed to guarantee the right of collective bargaining but which created abuses as bad as those which it was intended to correct. A calm inquiry would show that in the union of Sidney Hillman himself workers were coerced in the last election in a manner which, invoked by an employer, would have landed the rascal in jail.

It would show that a local of David Dubinsky's union ordered its members to attend a political rally for Senator Mead of New York, under penalty for failure. And, of course, it would prove that the Wagner Act established a legal basis for the operation of rackets at the expense of the workers, industry, the national defense and workable relations between labor and industry.

To recapture the mood of the time when the Wagner Act was passed it may be recalled that the American Federation of Labor was commonly and carelessly regarded as a great, voluntary organization of workers standing together against abuses by the employers, but still in need of Federal backing to thwart the bosses at their dirty practices. But that was just a general impression which made the employers, as a class, appear to be a bad lot and the unions, as a class, innocent and noble groups.

NOW it is plain that all employers were not cruel and greedy and that there were some very bad men in control of the unions, including some clerical rough-and-tumble swindlers who held their power by the methods of the grafting political boss and lacked criminal records only because tradition warned the public prosecutors to lay off the unions.

There are plenty of honest union leaders who would testify, if placed under oath to the perjury of other union leaders, and it would take no squelcher to reveal, under intelligent questioning, that the two big organizations—A. F. of L. and C. I. O.—are enormous private governments with all the ills and faults of public government, but in exaggerated form because they have been practically immune from public inspection and governmental restraint.

Once the facts were revealed Congress would be bound to adopt amendments to the Wagner Act or other legislation to abolish, rather than license, union abuses. This need not be a dramatic or corny investigation of the midget-on-lap type. A few individual workers could be used as witnesses to prove various forms of oppression by unions, but the union powers and practices could be learned by examination of their constitutions and their history. A union which has held a convention in 30 years, for example, cannot be said to represent the will of the workers.

Business

By John T. Flynn

Gold Pressure Causing Worry, but
Nothing Can Be Done at This Time

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—The pressure of the gold that is getting in our hair is forcing Federal money controllers to think.

The simple truth is that we have a wildcat by the tail. The whole gold episode is a perfect example of what happens when an unconsidered and foolish policy is once adopted. When the mistake is discovered the conditions that have been produced by the mistake are so vast that it is impossible to cure the mistake without creating worse conditions than when the mistake was made.

The gold purchasing plan should have been abandoned in 1932. Every year after that abandonment of it became more difficult. And yet every year after that the dangerous effects became more serious. Abandonment of it now might well produce such a grave upset of world exchange markets as to make the war trade—which is the chief trade we now enjoy—almost impossible.

England is the largest producer of gold. She mines about \$750,000,000 of gold a year. She can turn that in here at \$35 an ounce. If we stop buying at the guaranteed price of \$35 an ounce the purchasing power of the gold she produces will be impaired if not removed.

THE cost of everything England is buying here might be immediately increased, and she would in turn be forced to do something about her currency—a thing she cannot do at matters stand. We might be immediately confronted with an unfavorable balance of trade and a collapse of one of the chief props of the fictitious prosperity we enjoy.

The tide of protest against the gold-buying policy, nevertheless, continues to rise. The utter madness of the scheme becomes daily more apparent as the world's gold pours in on us and our whole banking structure becomes more and more affected by it. Yet grave as it is, there is nothing that can be done about it, particularly now.

It is, however, reassuring to find the Reserve Board at the point where it at least feels that some sort of counter-balancing force must be brought into existence.

So They Say—

LET US MAKE the wish that America will, throughout the coming year, be strong to do the right as God gives her to see the right.—President Kenneth Irving Brown, Denison University.

THE FUNDAMENTAL element in the discipline of the mind of the free man is a love of truth.—President E. E. Day of Cornell University.

IN THE SORROWFUL international period in which we are living, no country in the world can be insensible to the suffering of others.—President Avila Camacho of Mexico.

DEMOCRACY is not merely a good form of government; it is the best.—President Robert M. Hutchins, University of Chicago.

THIS IS NOT A world that can be saved by professional humanitarians.—Clarence Pickett, Quaker relief worker.

FOR MY OWN part I want no single step taken relating to war that is not given time for public debate.—Herbert Hoover.

Just to Be Sure He Doesn't Take Off!



The Hoosier Forum

I wholly disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

FAVORS THE AX FOR PINBALL MACHINES

By Times Reader

The papers reveal actions being taken against some pinball machine operations. It's about time something should be done about these machines that are scattered all over the city—whether they are being used for gambling purposes or not. The suggestion of using an ax on all of these machines would be the best thing that could happen to them. At least it would be the end of one easy method of taking money from minors which seems to be within the law.

EXPRESSING DISLIKE FOR CURRENT RADIO MUSIC

By Mrs. D. E. Day

Why do 130 million people have to listen to this putrid music on our radios?

We pay good money for fine radios and what do we hear, some old dried up songs and music, if you call it music, and songs no one has ever heard simply because the broadcasting systems are determined the American people must accept their ideas.

We can't even hear the familiar theme songs and music from our favorite shows. The musicians have a union. Why not support their composers and walk out at one time and the radio broadcasting systems will come to their senses?

Here is hoping we can hear some real music soon.

COLLEGE MAN REPORTS AGAIN ON STEEL MILL

By Curious

Since I started working for this steel company more than a month ago on reserve labor I have worked in five different mills "as needed."

With a university degree I have been doing work that anyone with strong hands and the brains of a frog could do.

I have been doing much listening, little talking and read The Times' editorials and columns every day.

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns, religious controversies, excluded. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request.)

In the mills I have not once heard national defense mentioned. Last Sunday at midnight I started to work on the 12 to 8 turn. At about 6 in the morning I went to sleep standing straight up! Most of the workers are swarthy, being of Mexican or south European stock. For the first time in my life I have met four adult American citizens who can neither read nor write our language.

They can speak our American language well enough to be understood—sometimes. There are few Swedes and Norwics, those few have high paying jobs.

SAYING A KIND WORD FOR THE APPEASERS

By R. L.

So you're an appeaser, eh? Shame on you. For, according to the President's inflections, an appeaser is a nasty bit of moral degeneracy at one shouldn't be caught touching with a ten-foot pole.

All of which makes us gals charged with keeping the home fires burning pretty red in the face. We're the world's foremost appeasers and always have been.

Our motto, moreover, for preventing disastrous domestic wars, if we want to stay out of divorce courts, coincides with that ancient Chinese saw: "To keep the family peace one must bear and forbear seventy times seven."

Appeasement and forbearance are twins, with a lively sense of justice, much kindness and love and a strong dash of humor. There can be no chips on the shoulders; bitterness and rancor are banished along with hate, and the favorite paths by which they travel are charity and understanding.

Probably every woman who put a

Mrs. in front of the name she assumed has at some time in her married life had grounds for an all-out domestic war to the divorce and finish. But appeasement—that nasty little word—was used to preserve the home and safeguard the welfare of the children.

Why should international appeasers suffer opprobrium? Had the British made a real attempt at honest appeasement instead of a plan to stall off Hitler long enough to doublecross him with Russia later, the story might have been different. In a time when everybody was doublecrossing everybody else, Hitler simply had the distinction of doing it first.

SUGGESTING A NEW IDEA IN WARFARE

By J. T.

Now that the whole world is about to participate in another silly war, I tripped over an idea that may help promote peace of better quality.

Many letters published in the forum have covered the subject of peace, how it can be accomplished, the cause of wars, etc. Some are sound and some are even funny, but no matter what weight they carry the idea rapidly is forgotten.

My plan is to have every government that keeps an army for protection or for conquest form army teams. They would play every week. Stands for spectators (bomb and bullet proof windows) would be built so that the armies could give their best. No conscripts would be accepted, volunteers eligible only.

Every year there would be "Olympics" whereby the best teams of their respective governments would compete for international honors. Varied climaxes for the spectators could be given, such as blowing up the bleachers, pouring liquid fire into them or, even gassing them to death. There would be rules and regulations governing the teams, etc.

Every participating government should encourage and employ the most devastating destructive methods obtainable. In due time the governments would find that they would have to drop out of the war games (like Chicago U.) due to lack of volunteers. The peoples would get their stomachs full and finally the whole idea would drop out of the picture and the peoples would settle down with a saner mind.

ASSETS BRITISH LIKE TO TAKE OUR MONEY

By W. F.

The British tell us persistently that they can take it. Naturally we believe it, but we must understand they mean our money. They are always ready to take everything they can get, but they never give back what they have taken. We better leave them alone—let the Germans give it to them.

CLOCK OF JANUARY

By MARY P. DENNY

Tick-tock, tick-tock. Hear the clock of the New Year. Bright and clear, bright and clear. Sounding forth the hours of time in a free and glorious chime. Songs of all the coming year, Summer, winter and bright spring, Ring a joy in everything. Counting off the glowing hour To all the trees and flowers that tower. Gives to all of nature wing Simple joy to all that sing. Tick-tock, tick-tock. Hear the clock of the New Year.

DAILY THOUGHT

And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.—Deuteronomy 1:16.

MAN IS UNJUST, but God is just; and finally justice triumphs.—Longfellow.

Gen. Johnson Says—

Federal Reserve Suggestions and
Partial Approval by Roosevelt
May Remove Danger of Inflation

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Nothing more necessary and constructive than the Federal Reserve anti-inflation recommendations has come out of Government in a long time and nothing more hopeful than the President's apparent acceptance of them at least in part. Early in his first Administration, Mr. Roosevelt was "sold" a cluster of schemes to increase deflated prices by monkeying with money, debasing the nation's currency. None was quite so bad and bold as openly printing money, just forcing people to take engraved paper without any real value behind it for their goods and services. Nothing was quite as bad as that, but all slanted in that direction and one law authorized the President to do just that to the extent of three billion dollars.

Among them was the authority granted to the President to debase the value of the dollar by buying gold and paying for it as much as twice as much as it is worth, and to buy silver also for much more than it is worth and issue dollars against that phony price at a still higher figure. Another, more difficult to explain, was the plan and practice of spending billions more money than Government had, paying for it by bonds sold to the banks (rather than to individuals) and letting the banks pay for the bonds simply by crediting Government with the price of the bonds.

WITHOUT going into too much detail, the tendency of this is exactly the same as printing bales of irredeemable money unless some limit is put on the bank's power to use this swiftly increasing mountain of credit exactly as though it were actually money deposited by their customers from their earnings or sale of goods.

It expanded the amount of "bank" money to fantastical heights just as printing truck loads of fiat paper money expands the currency. The effect of either kind of expansion will sooner or later be to make people afraid of the value of money and start an upward spiral of prices and a downward spiral of the value of money, which is the same thing and both are "inflation."

Briefly, the Federal Reserve recommends putting a limit or a complete stop to all these authorities and practices and also to put a limit to the amount of our vast gold hoard that can be used as a basis for further increases in the volume of money.

None of these authorities was used in full and none actually produced the real inflationary effects for which all were designed, but the danger of those effects exists.

Probably not many people will go to the trouble to understand this or get very much excited about it, but it is a wise and timely move against a great danger to national security and defense as war itself, the danger of wartime price inflation.

It never has been controlled before but it must be controlled this time. If it isn't, it will double or treble the costs of living, of Government and of war itself. If that is permitted to happen, in view of the tremendous debt we have and the great expenditure we face, it could certainly bankrupt this nation long suffering people to the breaking point.

What is at stake here is a matter of scores of billions of dollars, perhaps more than the cost of two or three world wars. Let's hope and pray that the project will not fail.

These Federal Reserve recommendations alone may not be enough. They are one of many other possible controls, all of which must be made ready and promptly applied if necessary. The surest and the simplest is the Baruch plan of a statutory ceiling over all prices above which none can rise except as a price-stabilization board shall permit on a proper showing of necessity in each case.

There may be a hard problem to explain or understand, but our people must understand it because it is the most dangerous problem that confronts us.

A Woman's Viewpoint

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

THE Mormons have a nice custom. Each household sets aside one evening in 14 which is called "Family Night" and nothing is allowed to interfere with its celebration.

Parents and children get together to discuss matters of family group welfare. Budgets are studied, economics outlined, education and recreation plans made so that every person, even the littlest, is made to feel like a significant member of the family unit.

On those evenings differences are talked over. Parents as well as children confess their mistakes, and frequently, it is said, fathers and mothers appeal to the youngsters for advice about their own dissensions. They can be sure of getting honest opinions, for most adolescents are outspoken and not apt to spare adult feelings.

The occasions are also used to encourage the display of any artistic talents. The family becomes the audience for amateur musicians, dramatists, writers and painters. Hobbies, domestic skills and ambitions are aired, the purpose being the encouragement of the individual to improve his natural gifts.

To me, this sound as if it would be an excellent program for every American home—Protestant, Catholic, Jew, Mormon or agnostic. During the last 20 years there have been many vast group movements whose purpose was child welfare and family co-operation. Thousands of professors, doctors and clubwomen have held hundreds of conferences, and it would be folly, I think, to insist that all this work has been wasted.

On the other hand, it is also folly to believe we can bring up good citizens by belonging to clubs, no matter how grand their motives are.

Good children are created in happy homes—and nowhere else. And happy homes are those in which husband and wife give more time to their youngsters than they give to social affairs, organizations or noble causes.

Watching Your Health

By Jane Stafford

JACK SPRAT and his wife of nursery rhyme fame are found in many a home, although sometimes their roles are reversed, with missus refusing to eat any fat in an effort to maintain a stylish slim figure. Jack Sprat couples of 1941, however, should both eat some fat and some lean, according to the teachings of nutritionists.

The basis of any diet, whether for reducing weight or gaining weight, should be the same. It is in the extras that the meals for underweight and overweight persons should differ.

A good diet must include foods to furnish fuel, protein, vitamins and minerals. Milk belongs in the diet of everyone because it is such a rich source of calcium, although it has other food values, too. A pint of whole milk provides a little over 300 calories, which is less than a single serving of most desserts. Those trying to lose weight may cut the milk calories in half by drinking buttermilk or skim milk, but they must have some butter or other fat to give a staying quality to their diet.

Cereals and bread, especially the whole-grain kinds, belong on every diet list, nutritionists of the U. S. Bureau of Home Economics point out. Cooked cereals with plenty of cream and sugar are cooked for those trying to gain weight, while those trying to reduce should leave off the sugar and use milk instead of cream. For gaining weight, spread the bread thickly with butter; for reducing, eat thin slices of bread or toast with very little butter.

Fruits, especially the citrus fruits and tomatoes, and green leafy vegetables and some of the yellow colored vegetables belong in every diet for the vitamins and minerals they contain. Those trying to gain weight can add extra butter or cream sauce to their vegetables.

Side Glances—By Galbraith



"Then explain why you never took an interest in dogs until I started what you call filling the house with week-end guests!"